LOCAL NEWS

The Daily Colonist.

(ESTABLISHED 1858)

CLASSIFIED

No. 32—101st YEAR | VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 1959 | SECOND NEWS SECTION

WALLY CONNORTON ... too glamorous | BILL SCOTT ... better discipline | ANTON ANDERSON ... not worried | ALEC RAWLINGS ... streamline studies | MAY BROOKER ... fewer frills | GARRY WILLIAMS ... longer school year | CECIL LEWIS ... overhaul needed | M. F. HUNTER ... better grounding

More Discipline, Less Frippery School Need?

If the average citizen were to appear before the royal commission on education Thursday in Victoria, what would he say?

"More discipline and less frippery," most likely.

That seemed to be more or less the average attitude yesterday among people asked by the Colonist what they would tell the royal commission.

Switchboard operator May Brooker, for instance, managed to answer between calls, "Back to the three Rs — and no frills!"

Automobile dealer Wally Connorton said schools were too something-or-other glamorous, and he would like "to see them get down to some sane construction" both in the schools and the schooling.

City clerk M. F. Hunter would like to see teachers given authority to control and discipline the students better, and, he said, more thorough instruction in the basic subjects should be given.

Longer school hours were suggested by butcher Garry Williams—and a longer school year, too. He said some of the long holidays could well be cut down.

Douglas Taylor, a student at S. J. Willis Junior High School, didn't agree with him.

An extra hour a day might be useful, he admitted, but it wouldn't be welcome: a five-hour school day, plus a couple of hours' homework, was enough.

Nor did Anton Anderson, operating a sewer-cleaning machine, agree with him. He hadn't studied the question, he said, but he didn't think school hours should be any longer.

"Education may be all right but I'd like to see the kids get the strap once in a while," said a service station attendant, Bill Scott. He said he didn't think discipline was all it might be.

Shoe shop proprietor Cecil Lewis thought there was "no question about it, there are too many frills." More time should be given to basic subjects, he maintained.

Norman W. Pike, 414 Durban, father of two school children, thinks "the present school system is fine. I can't see many changes that are needed. There should be more technical training facilities though. Both my youngsters are happy in school and both are doing exceptionally well."

Mrs. Frank Jenvey, a member of Tillicum PTA and mother of two girls, denounces the junior high school system. "The girls grow up too quickly. They think they are older than they are. We were kids at 13. Now they try to act like they are 18 when they are 13. I would like to see a smart uniform for the girls and do away with the competitive spirit in dress. I am satisfied with the curriculum."

Mrs. R. T. Obee, another PTA member and mother of three boys, would like to see pre-primary school teaching extended to all schools and on a weekly basis instead of every other week. "My youngest son has really benefited by it. It breaks them in for school. I would also like to see a report card which clearly shows a class average and child average. You don't know where they stand now."

Reginald Berry, 1011 Pakington father of two youngsters, says there is too much recreation and not enough of the three Rs. "This changing of classrooms for each period is a waste of time . . . the kids don't get settled down before they have to move to another room."

Floyd Ashton, a Fisgard Street barber and father of four boys, felt that teachers haven't enough control over students. "The parents butt in too much. The parents haven't been trained, but the teachers are skilled at administering discipline, but have not the authortity," he said.

Harold Gifford, another barber and father of a boy and a girl, said there are too many children and not enough teachers. "I don't think the school hours are long enough, but when there is a teacher shortage it is a big problem."

Probation officer Allan Jones, father of four children, said "it is the lack of discipline in the schools that disturbs me . . . and that reflects the change in society generally. I would like to see firmer discipline in schools. One of the major problems is that youngsters leave school at about 15 years of age before they have acquired a particular skill. They are too young for apprenticeship and too young for a regular job. There should be more training in skills for them."

Commission hearings, which are open to the public, are scheduled to start at 9.30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Thursday at Oak Bay Junior High School.

★ ★ ★

Public Poll Favors Stricter Attitudes

★ ★ ★

Ferry Run Wins Monthly Subsidy

The provincial cabinet yesterday authorized continued operation of the Mill Bay - Brentwood ferry service by Coast Ferries Ltd. on a month-to-month basis at a subsidy of $2,500 a month.

The company was the only one to bid on the service and asked a $30,000-a-year subsidy, which was turned down by the cabinet in favor of the month-to-month plan.

Fire Bylaw Amendment

Saanich Allows School Addition

Saanich fire regulations for school buildings will be relaxed to allow construction of a wooden frame, second storey addition to Mount Douglas High School.

An amendment to a bylaw forcing the fireproofing of school buildings more than one storey high within Saanich's boundaries was agreed to last night by council following receipt of a letter from the board of trustees of School District 61.

The letter pointed out that in 1953 a single storey addition was built at the school and provision was made for a second storey to be added later.

John S. Taylor, Saanich building inspector, reported that the fireproofing bylaw was subsequently adopted by Saanich. He recommended that council agree to the school board's request to make an exception in this case. Council agreed.

Sing Same Version, Schools Directed

School officials are making another attempt to achieve uniformity in the singing of "O Canada" in Greater Victoria schools.

District superintendent John Gough told Greater Victoria school board that for "the last seven years at least" directives have been sent to local schools.

Another directive will go out giving the version of the chorus approved for use in local schools. It will use the words, "O Canada, glorious and free. O Canada, we stand on guard for thee. O Canada, we stand on guard for thee."

Victoria Junior Chamber of Commerce last week backed the Weir version, "O Canada, glorious and free. We stand on guard, we stand on guard for thee. O Canada, we stand on guard for thee."

Mr. Gough said the department of education authorized the school version as far back as 1929. It was reaffirmed by the department in 1955.

Public Bars Seeking To Keep Club Hours

B.C. Innkeepers' Association yesterday asked Attorney-General Bonner to allow public drinking lounges to remain open the same hours as private clubs.

Private clubs are now allowed to stay open until 12.30 a.m., one hour later than public lounges.

A delegation from the association which met with Mr. Bonnen and Recreation Minister Earle Westwood also asked that instead of the words "licensed premises" some other sign such as "cocktail bar" would be preferable. They said they sought something that would be more easily recognizable by U.S. tourists.

MRS. MARGARET CUMMINGS

★ ★ ★

Seen In Passing

Mrs. Margaret Cummings balancing her employer's books. (She works for a city plumbing shop. Her husband, **Ernie**, is in the hardware business. Her spare time is taken up with "mostly housework," but she does find time to help the Canadian Girls in Training.) . . . **L/Cpl. W. G. Rule** of the Provost Corps, complete with motorcycle and crash helmet, explaining that his work actually was with military traffic and installations . . . **Don McLennan** counting batteries . . . **Dick Barry** checking glass and **Ray Maitland** hard at work, too . . . **Dr. John McPherson** helping a friend in distress . . . **Betty Stephen** shopping with daughter **Jane** . . . **David Hamblton** talking insurance . . . **Betty Putnam** and young son **Ian** strolling near Willows Beach . . . **Lieut Doug Bell** lounging in the mess.

Band Sound 'Plumber's Nightmare'

An Esquimalt band is using musical instruments which are nothing more than a "plumber's nightmare," municipal council was told last night by Mrs. Ruth Boyd.

Mrs. Boyd was spokesman for a delegation of a dozen people seeking a grant of $500 to buy new instruments and uniforms for the nearly 100-member Women's Auxiliry Esquimalt Schools Band.

On Assessments

Complaints Run High

Nearly 350 Greater Victoria ratepayers will appear before a three-man court in the first two weeks of February, worried, puzzled, reasoning or raging, to complain that their property assessments are too high.

The weekend deadline for giving notice found 130 ratepayers in Victoria city planning to seek reductions in the values placed on their land or "improvements" — houses and other structures—for taxation purposes.

In the city, a normal number is about 30. This year's big increase undoubtedly was prompted by a re-assessment carried out to conform with provincial regulations under the Assessment Equalization Act.

In the School District 61 portion of Saanich, the more urban portion, the list contains 150 names. This number is also far above "normal," although last year, when the major re-assessment in Saanich took place, there were 250 cases. In the School District 63 section of Saanich, 45 complaints are listed.

Large number of cases in Saanich this year has been attributed mainly to a re-assessment of land.

In Oak Bay, where many assessments have been increased this year, 65 cases are scheduled to be heard. This number was described yesterday as "much more than twice" normal.

Esquimalt has two cases listed.

The court of revision, appointed by the province but paid by the municipalities, will begin its Greater Victoria hearings Feb. 2 in Esquimalt. Hearings will begin the same day in the School District 63 portion of Saanich.

Hearings will begin in Victoria city Feb. 3, in Oak Bay Feb. 9, and in the School District 61 portion of Saanich Feb. 12.

Woman Loses Swiss Passport

Miss Charlotte Wipf, of 723 Yates Street, reported to police yesterday that she lost her Swiss passport somewhere in Victoria recently.

Market 'Must' In Crisis

Loss of the public market on Fisgard as a distribution centre during a disaster would be "bad" for Greater Victoria citizens, Commodore V. S. Godfrey, area civil defence co-ordinator, said yesterday.

Commodore Godfrey said he has written to Mayor Percy Scurrah asking for "definite information."

Civil defence headquarters is in a building behind the market, he explained, a building that is "not the nicest" in town.

"I've been scouting around for other premises," he said. "None that I looked at is as central."

Page Boys Ready for Session

Getting the feel of the Speaker's chair is Terry Mann, 14, who was one of 12 St. Louis College boys who yesterday were briefed on duties they will perform as page boys for the legislative assembly which opens Thursday. Others in picture are, left to right, Bill Comerford, 14, Norman Cox, 14, Kenneth Magee, 14, and sergeant-at-arms Denzil Ashby.—(Colonist photo)

On Castle Grounds

Building Plan 'Crime'

School Trustee William Gelling said last night "it would be a crime to put any administrative building" on the property of Craigdarroch Castle.

He was commenting on a recommendation to Greater Victoria school board that immediate steps be taken to implement plans — already approved by ratepayers — to build an administrative building to house overflow from board offices within the historic castle.

Trustee Walter Thomson, who last night made the recommendation on behalf of the education committee, said, "Unless we make a move now there will not be enough space for the staff in the future."

Trustee Kenneth Leeming, acting board chairman, said he favored proceeding with caution. "If the castle is to be turned into a museum piece at some future date, we should explore the possibility of obtaining space in any new city hall or of an entirely new administrative building," he said.

However, Trustee Richard Reeve pointed out the ratepayers had already approved $75,000 for construction of an administration building on the present school board property.

"I think we should go quietly ahead and mind our own business," he said.

Mr. Gelling said: "I don't believe we are faced with an emergency in the matter of office space.

"I think we can make better use of the space we have in this building. It would be a crime to put up any type of administrative building on this property.

"Anyway," he added, "this property is zoned for residential use and I don't believe we would be granted a building permit by the city."

Esquimalt to Sell Rockheights Lots

In response to a "tremendous demand for lots," Esquimalt council decided last night to put up for sale 36 lots in the Rockheights subdivision, Reeve A. C. Wurtele said.

The wooded section north of Old Esquimalt Road and west of Lampson Street takes in about one-third of the municipally-owned Rockheights area, he said.

Lots will range in price from $2,400 to $3,300 according to location, size and physical conditions, and will include installation of storm drains and laterals, a paved street, water mains and connections, street lights, sidewalks and "basic" clearing of old tree stumps.

Date of sale has not been announced, and it will be on a first-come, first-served basis, the reeve said. Only one lot will be sold per person and on terms of $100 down and cash within 30 days.

All lots will be for use as single-family dwellings, and a zoning restriction of 1,200 square feet is placed on each home.

"We've been deluged with people asking for lots," Mr. Wurtele said. "The last time we sold property, some people camped overnight at the municipal hall so they could get their choice."